

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 – 12:15 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Fafard, Obrey, Dowling, Kadri
Staff: Strother
Other: Robert Frink, Citizen

In Mathanool's absence, Dowling will serve as Secretary.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2012 AND AUGUST 16, 2012

No action was taken on the Minutes because there was not a quorum present of those who attended the meetings. The approval of the minutes will be added to the October meeting agenda.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Website Update

Staff continues to work with IT staff on ways to incorporate the consultant's suggestions into the Economic Development portion of the web page.

2. Incentives Review

Bob Frink provided an overview of the research he has done regarding what financial and non-financial incentives are being offered by other area municipalities. Bill Smith and Bob Frink also met with staff to review this material. One goal is to make the incentives program more timely and flexible, which the Public Hearing requirement and narrowness of who can seek incentives hinders. The next step will be to redraft the current Incentives resolution taking into consideration these recommended changes. Commission members thought it would be helpful to identify some success stories and also examples of incentives that did not work.

Discussion followed on other ways to grow the business environment, and it was agreed that Economic Gardening programs should be researched. Staff noted that seCTer has done research on a regional program, and East Lyme is also pursuing Economic Gardening. Staff will invite a representative of East Lyme and Deborah Donovan to the October meeting to discuss this further.

The Commission thanked Frink for his research and informative analysis on incentives.

3. Other

None

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Susan Dowling, Acting Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Barbara Strother
Economic Development Specialist

Not Approved